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ABSTRACT

A questionnaire was used to survey county school health education coordinators, supervisors or contacts in Florida. Forty contacts representing 24 rural and 16 urban school districts returned the completed questionnaire. A brief comment accompanies each of the listed responses to the nine questions on the current status of health education in Florida. Questions concerned the number of teachers certified in health education who teach health education and life management skills classes, potential placement of health education interns in schools, school district hiring plans for certified health educators over five years, and professional and personal health interests of teachers and certified health education teachers. (JD)

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SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION/EDUCATORS STATUS IN FLORIDA

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SP030307

SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION STATUS SURVEY

The questionnaire was mailed to 70 county school health education coordinators, supervisors or contacts, per the DOE mailing list. Forty health education contacts filled out the questionnaire and returned it to Tallahassee in the stamped pre-addressed envelope. The response rate was 57.1 %.

QUESTION 1

Responses Received From Either Urban or Rural School Districts — The school district sizes were based upon present population, as well as growth rates.

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL	40	100.0
Rural	24	60.0
Urban	16	40.0

(Rural — Taylor, Calhoun, Gilchrist, Jackson, Wakulla, Liberty, Franklin, Lake, Osceola, Hardee, Baker, Bay, Okeechobee, Santa Rosa, Bradford, Citrus, Putnam, St. Johns, Clay, Swannee, Madison, Walton and Monroe.
Urban — Palm Beach, Lee, Sarasota, Orange, Volusia, Dade, Charlotte, Brevard, Martin, Hillsborough, Broward, St. Lucie, Indian River, Hernando, Pasco, and Seminole.)

QUESTION 2

In your school district, do teachers with certification in health education teach a health education course at the junior high school/middle school level? (Number and Percents are for the **YES** responses.)

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	18	45.0
Rural, N=24	9	37.5
Urban, N=16	9	56.3

COMMENTS: A middle/junior high school health education course is currently not a state requirement. Proposed is some legislation requiring such a course at the middle/junior high school level. If this legislation is approved and/or the school health teacher certification trend continues, additional school health certified teachers will be needed within the middle/junior high schools.

QUESTION 3

In your school district, do teachers with certification in health education teach the life management skills course at the high school level? (Number and Percents are for the **YES** responses.)

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	28	70.0
Rural, N=24	13	54.2
Urban, N=16	15	93.7

COMMENTS: Present State legislation requires a life management skills course for graduation from high school. DOE guidelines call for either a home economics or a health educator life management skills course -- the two courses do vary in State required content. Generally, except for Pasco County, health educators have responsibilities for teaching the course in the urban counties. In the rural counties, generally the home economics department staff teach the course, and some principals have indicated that the life management skills course assists in completing the teaching load of the home economics staff within their school.

QUESTION 4

Would your school district consider the placement of Florida State University interns in health education? (Number and Percents are for the **YES** responses.)

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	35	87.5
Rural, N=24	20	83.3
Urban, N=16	15	93.7

COMMENTS: Questioned would have to be the placement of school health education student interns with teachers lacking current school health teacher education certification. This matter would have to be closely studied.

QUESTION 5

What do you perceive as the hiring practices for teachers with certification in health education during the next five years within your school district? (Number and Percents are for the **YES** responses.)

——Will be hiring teachers with certification in health education for the first time

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	8	20.0
Rural, N=24	7	29.2
Urban, N=16	1	6.3

——Will be replacing teachers with no certification in health education with teachers possessing certification in health education

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	7	17.5
Rural, N=24	3	12.5
Urban, N=16	4	25.0

——Will not be hiring teachers with certification in health education

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	3	7.7
Rural, N=24	3	12.5
Urban, N=16	1	6.3

——Will be increasing the number of teachers possessing certification in health education

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	23	57.5
Rural, N=24	11	45.9
Urban, N=16	12	75.0

——No Response

District Type	Number	Percent
TOTAL, N=40	3	7.5
Rural, N=24	2	8.3
Urban, N=16	1	6.3

COMMENTS: Certified school health educators within the next five years should have numerous employment opportunities in Florida.

QUESTION 7

Please list five health related topics that might be of interest to **elementary teachers** employed within your school district. Health topics could be related to either personal or professional interests of the teachers.

Topics	Number of Rural Responses, N=24	Number of Urban Responses, N=16
AIDS/STD's	14	8
Drugs, Drug Education, Substance Abuse	14	10
— Smoking	3	1
— Alcohol	2	
— OCT Medication		1
— Mental Health	1	1
— Coping		1
— Peer Pressure	1	1
— Self Concept	2	1
— Emotional Health	2	1
— Refusal Skills		1
— Decision Making		1
— Stress Management	3	2
— Attitudes	1	
— Time Management	2	
— Student Reinforcers	1	
Human Sexuality/Family Life	4	4
— Family Living		1
— Relationships		1
— Social Problems	1	
— Child Abuse	1	
— Neglect	1	
Personal Fitness	5	1
— Exercise	1	
— Wellness	3	4
Nutrition	2	7
— Obesity	1	
Safety	1	3
— CPR/First Aid	3	
— Disasters	1	
Personal Hygiene	2	4
— Lice	3	
Human Growth		1
— Body Systems		1
Diseases	1	
— Communicable Diseases	2	1
— Childhood Diseases	1	

Elementary Teachers	Number of Rural Responses, N=24	Number of Urban Responses, N=16
Environmental Health	1	
PROCESSES/SKILLS/TECHNIQUE/PROGRAMS		
Health Education Resources		1
Integrated Health Education		1
Curriculum Design	1	
GROWING HEALTHY	1	
Community Health Education	1	

COMMENTS: Most county health contacts indicated that the elementary teachers were interested in learning more about AIDS, a new major health problem; drug prevention/substance abuse programs which generally are mental health in focus; nutrition (am curious as to whether teachers would like some assistance in developing parent programs); human sexuality/family life and; wellness/personal fitness programs. In addition to the health related topics, mentioned by some contacts were process and programmatic skills.(GROWING HEALTHY is a national curriculum which has found to be behaviorally effective.)

QUESTIONS 8

Please list five health related topics that might be of interest to **junior high/middle school teachers and high school teachers** employed within your school district? Health topics could be of either personal or professional interest to the teachers.

Topics	Number of Rural Responses, N=24	Number of Urban Responses, N=16
Drugs, Drug Education, Substance Abuse	20	11
— Cigarettes	2	3
— Alcohol		1
—Mental Health	1	
— Suicide	1	1
— Communication Skills		2
— Coping	1	
— Emotional	1	1
— Stress Management	3	3
— Decision Making	1	2
— Peer Pressure	1	2
— Self Concept	2	2
— Time Management	1	
— Refusal Skills		1
— Attitudes		1
— Relationships		1
AIDS/STD's	17	13
Nutrition	10	3
— Dieting	1	
— Anorexic		1
Human Sexuality/Family Life	4	7
— Child Abuse	2	1
— Parenting	1	
— Teenage Pregnancy	2	
Personal Fitness	6	3
— Wellness	3	3
— Health and Athletics		
Growth and Development	2	5
CPR/First Aid	3	
Cleanliness	1	1
—Lice	1	
Communicable Disease	1	
Childhood Illnesses	1	

Junior/Middle School and High School Teachers	Number of Rural Responses, N=24	Number of Urban Responses, N=16
Consumer Health	1	
—Quackery		1
—Health Professions	1	

PROCESSES/SKILLS/TECHNIQUES/PROGRAMS

GROWING HEALTHY	1
Health Needs/Interests	1
Sunforcers	1
Curriculum Integration	1

COMMENTS: Again, drug education, AIDS, nutrition, and human sexuality/family life ranked highly. Noted especially should be the mental health related topics which form the decision making basis approach for health instruction. Also, personal fitness was listed which is the primary interest of many of the non-certified health educators teaching either health or physical education at the middle/junior high school level.

QUESTION 9

Please list five health related topics that might be of interest to **teachers with certification in health education** employed within your school district. Health topics could related to either the personal or professional interests of the teachers.

Topics	Number of Rural Responses, N=24	Number of Urban Responses, N=16
AIDS	10	20
Drugs	9	18
— Tobacco	2	1
— Alcohol	1	
—Mental Health		2
— Stress Management	2	4
— Suicide	2	2
— Coping	1	1
— Self Esteem		1
— Decision Making		1
— Peer Pressure		1
— Personal Practices		1
— Behavioral Changes	1	
— Death	1	
Human Sexuality/Family Life	6	5
— Child Abuse		3
— Child Development		1
— Parenting	1	
— Teen Age Parents	1	
— Unwanted Pregnancies		2
Nutrition	3	3
— Eating Disorders	1	1
CPR/First Aid	1	3
Consumer Health	3	
Personal Fitness		3
— Wellness	2	
Cleanliness	1	
— Lice	1	
Growth and Development	1	
Diseases		1
— Communicable Diseases		1
— Childhood Diseases		1
— Cancer	1	

Certified Health Educators	Number of Rural Responses, N=24	Number of Urban Responses, N=16
PROCESSES/SKILLS/TECHNIQUES/PROGRAMS		
New Directions	1	4
Project Where		1
Teen Age Modules		1
Curriculum Integration		1
Life Management Skills		1
Certification Renewal		1
Liability		1
Inservice		1
Resources		1
Methods		1
Health Education		1
Referral Agencies	1	
Lobbying	1	
Public Relations	1	

COMMENTS: Drugs, AIDS, and Sexuality again were the ranked topics. Especially noted should be th increased emphasis upon health education instructional processes and techniques.